

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9 and 11-39 stand rejected. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-9 and 11-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0029264), hereafter Ogino in view of Schweikard et al. (U.S. Patent 6,501,981), hereafter Schweikard. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons set forth hereafter.

Independent claims 1, 24, 30, 33 and 34 variously recite wherein the medical image information is post-processed using the medical imaging system. The Office Action asserts that the cited Ogino reference teaches a medical imaging system that “is involved in post-processing both in a first compression/decompression loop, information send/receive loop and a second compression/decompression loop” (Office Action, page 4) despite indicating that the Ogino reference is directed to reducing processing loads such that the imaging systems are “only required to upload compressed images (0127-0130) and are not required to perform any of the post-processing operations on their local processor.” (Office Action page 3).

Applicant submits that Office Action specifically recognizes that the Ogino reference teaches away from post-processing by the medical imaging systems to thereby reduce processing loads. However, the Office Action then asserts that compression/decompression loops and a send/receive loop are post-processing operations performed by the medical imaging apparatus connected to the image processing server. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The compression/decompression functions and the send/receive functions are performed by sections within the central management server that is NOT part of the imaging systems/apparatus in any of the described embodiments of the Ogino reference. The cited processes are clearly performed external to the imaging systems/apparatus. Moreover, nothing in the Ogino reference suggests that such operations are performed within the imaging systems/apparatus. Additionally, the Office Action has not cited to any specific portions of the Ogino reference supporting that these processes are performed in the imaging system/apparatus.

The Office Action further cites to Figure 16 of Ogino as an integrated system. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The imaging systems/apparatus of the embodiment shown in Figure 16 are separately provided through a network similar to all the other embodiments. None of the imaging systems/apparatus are described as performing compression/decompression functions and/or send/receive functions. The systems/apparatus of Ogino that perform the imaging simply do not perform the compression/decompression functions and/or send/receive functions, which are performed in a separate processing unit.

Moreover, Applicant submits that merely sending and receiving data does not involve any processing of the data. The data is merely communicated from one location to another location with none of the data processed, and in particular, post-processed. Moreover, the compression/decompression functions described in Ogino are not post-processing operations, but is merely a way to differently encode the data, not to post-process the data.

Thus, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 24, 30, 33 and 34 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references.

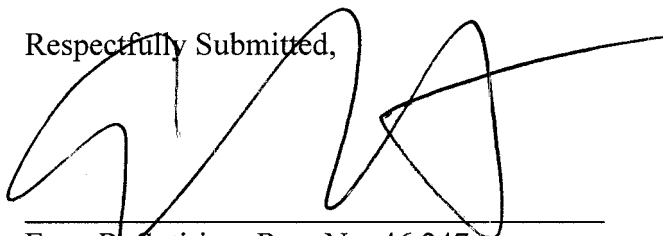
Additionally, the Schweikard reference does not describe remote access of a medical imaging system to post-process medical images, but instead to controlling operations during acquisition of the medical images by remote access.

Applicant also submits that dependent claims 2-9, 11-23, 25-29, 31, 32 and 35-39 recite additional subject matter not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. The Office Action also does not specifically address and provide support for each and every one of the dependent claims, thereby not affording Applicant a fair and full opportunity to respond. Additionally, dependent claims 2-9, 11-23, 25-29, 31, 32 and 35-39 are allowable based at least on the dependency of these claims from the independent claims.

There may be additional reasons to the reasons described herein that claims 1-9 and 11-39 are each patentable over the cited references. Without waiver of such additional reasons, Applicants reserve the right to argue such additional reasons hereafter.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references neither anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention and the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Sotiriou', written over a horizontal line.

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